

Art Unit: \*\*\*

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AS

CLAIMS 1-17 (CANCELLED)

18. (Amended) A terminal comprising:

a contacting zone (3) having an insulation piercing slit blade connector SBIPC (11) located therein,

an insulating housing (4) formed with an inlet slot (15) to receive a wire (20), and retaining said SBIPC with a wire receiving slit (12) aligned with said inlet slot (15), said SBIPC being retained within said housing (4) safe against accidental contact therewith;

said housing (4) being formed with a slot or groove-like extension (16) projecting from said at least one inlet slot (15), which extension (16) is so dimensioned that a free end of the wire (20) is retained therein secure against accidental contact with said free end;

said terminal (2) being dimensioned to fit within a predetermined raster; and

wherein said extension (16) at least in part, has a width which is smaller or at most slightly larger than the nominal outer diameter of the wire (20) to be connected to said SBIPC (11), including the insulation of said wire (20).

Art Unit: \*\*\*

19. The terminal of claim 18, wherein said contacting zone is formed by a pair of rib-like projections (14) facing each other and, together forming said inlet slot;

and wherein said terminal is further formed with spaced walls (9, 10) extending away from said SBIPC (11) in a direction essentially perpendicular to said SBIPC along a longitudinal axis (17),

said projections being integral with said walls (9, 10).

20. The terminal of claim 19, wherein said walls (9, 10) are formed with facing rib-like projecting portions (22) defining, between themselves, a reception slot (23) for said wire (20).

21. The terminal of claim 20, wherein the width of at least one of

the space between said projecting portions (22) and said inlet slot (15) is smaller than the nominal diameter of the wire (20) including its insulation.

22. (Amended) The terminal of claim 18, further including a bottom wall (18) formed on said extension (16), said bottom wall being essentially in alignment and equal to the bottom edge (19) of an insertion slit (12) of the SBIPC (11).

Art Unit: \*\*\*

23. The terminal of claim 18, further including a closing-wall (27) closing off said extension (16) at the side thereof remote from the SBIPC.

24. The terminal of claim 23, wherein said closing wall (27) is frangible to permit breaking thereof upon introduction of a wire (20) into said extension (16).

25. The terminal of claim 18, further including removable, openable closing means (28) closing off said extension (16) at the side remote from the SBIPC, said openable closing means (28) being elastically deflectable upon insertion of the wire (20) into said extension.

26. The terminal of claim 18, wherein said housing walls (9, 10), in the region of said groove-like extension (16) is

Art Unit: \*\*\*

formed with projecting clamping surfaces or guide surfaces (14a) for a wire to be introduced into the terminal (2).

27. The terminal of claim 26, wherein said clamping surfaces or guide surfaces (14a) comprise integrally formed projecting portions (14a) located at opposite sides of said walls (9, 10) and facing each other.

28. The terminal of claim 27, wherein the projecting portions are formed with inclined insertion guide surfaces (19).

29. The terminal of claim 18, wherein the outer dimensions of the housing, at least in the contact zone (3) and the housing portions delimiting the groove-like extension (16) are dimensioned with respect to minimum size required by insulation of adjacent terminals and the required air and creep paths between adjacent terminals.

30. The terminal of claim 29, wherein the terminal housing includes a plurality of adjacently located terminal positions (3), each having contacting zone;

and wherein separating walls (10) between adjacent terminal positions are dimensioned to be a minimum with respect to required air and creep paths of adjacent terminals.

31. The terminal of claim 19, wherein said projections (14) defining the inlet slot project with different dimensions at selected positions over their length, so that the inlet slot (15, 22) defined by said projections will have regions (24) of different widths with respect to the depth of said slots.

32. The terminal of claim 31, wherein said slot or groove-like extension (16) has, with respect to its depth, regions of different widths.